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HABITAT—*ARGYNNIS ADIASTE*

(See figures on page 192)

This species of *Argynnis*, like most around the world, is restricted to *Viola* for the larval food plant. The distribution of the species is restricted to the coastal section of central California from the Santa Cruz mountains, south of the San Francisco Bay, to the Tehachapi mountains just south of the Great Valley of California. A fuller discussion of the distribution and geographical variation in color will come soon in a subsequent issue.

The habitat of *A. adiate* is usually openings in oak woodland, though the scarcity of populations throughout its range would indicate that rather special conditions are required for survival. Such an opening in the woods is shown in the upper figure on page 192. (Nacimiento Summit, Monterey County, California, June 1971). The ground between the trees is covered with oak leaves as shown on the lower figure on page 192, together with scattered groups of *Viola* sp. The particular *Viola* shown is not known definitely to be the food plant for the larvae, but the adults have been observed to react to them as if they were. Adults have been collected here three different years since 1960.

This same type of habitat appears in all other localities where *A. adiate* or its races *atossa* and *clemencei* have been found.

Two other species of *Argynnis* occupy the same region with *adiaste*, namely, *callippe-macaria* and *snyderi*. Each of these occupies a somewhat different habitat which is difficult to define. The adults may fly together occasionally, but usually not, *callippe* occupying warmer, open ridges and *snyderi* other areas, ill-defined but different from either. These three *Argynnis* are ecologically isolated by some, as yet unknown, factor which may be a specific difference of *Viola* for the larval food plant. This point should not be difficult to determine.